



# REPORT

ON THE

# PUBLIC HEALTH

OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF BUSHEY

URBAN DISTRICT OF CHORLEYWOOD

URBAN DISTRICT OF RICKMANSWORTH

RURAL DISTRICT OF WATFORD

IN THE COUNTY OF

HERTFORD

WILLIAM HARVEY, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

# 1943

REPORT on the STATE of the PUBLIC HEALTH in the URBAN DISTRICT of BUSHEY, the URBAN DISTRICT of CHORLEYWOOD, the URBAN DISTRICT of RICKMANSWORTH, and, the RURAL DISTRICT of WATFORD, in the COUNTY OF HERTFORD, for the YEAR 1943.

---

To :

The Chairmen and Members of the Councils.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my annual report on the state of the Public Health, and, the reports by the Inspectors on the Sanitary Conditions, in the Districts, for the year 1943.

After four years of war the state of the Public Health continued to be satisfactory under conditions that were not always favourable. The number of deaths recorded over the whole area was 648, compared with 623 in 1942, and with 680 in 1941. The death-rates for the Districts were:—Bushey, 11.5; Chorleywood, 13.0; Rickmansworth, 10.1; and Watford Rural, 9.1. The death-rate for England and Wales was 12.1.

The number of children born during the year was 988 (514 boys and 474 girls) compared with 1,029 (525 boys and 504 girls) in 1942, and with 861 (452 boys and 409 girls) in 1941. The birth-rates for the Districts were:—Bushey, 14.8; Chorleywood, 15.1; Rickmansworth, 17.8; and Watford Rural, 14.0. The birth-rate for England and Wales was 16.5. The natural increase of the population or the excess of births over deaths, was 340, compared with 406 in the previous year. Further reductions in the Registrar-General's estimates of the populations of the Districts have had the effect of slightly increasing the birth-, and death-, rates in comparison with previous years.

There were 32 deaths of infants under the age of 1 year, compared with 31 in the previous year, and with 42 in 1941. The Infantile Mortality rates, or the numbers of deaths of infants under the age of 1 year per 1,000 live births, were:—Bushey, 46.6; Chorleywood, 76.9; Rickmansworth, 37.1; and Watford Rural, 15.6. The rate for the whole country was 49.

The downward trend in the deaths from Tuberculosis, which was noted in 1942, was reversed in 1943, when 27 deaths from the Pulmonary, and 6 deaths from the Non-Pulmonary, forms of the disease were recorded. The corresponding figures for the previous four years were:—1942, 26 and 3; 1941, 27 and 5; 1940, 22 and 5; and, 1939, 18 and 4; of the Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary forms respectively.

Scarlet Fever was more prevalent—168 cases being notified, compared with 127 in 1942. Whooping Cough was less prevalent, and, there was also a slight reduction in the incidence of Measles. Whooping Cough is a disease which, except when complications are present, is generally nursed at home, and, consequently, if proper care is not taken, the infection can easily be spread to other children. The treatment of a child at home in war-time is more difficult owing to the added cares of the mother; but, in spite of these, the general rule for the prevention of infection should be strictly observed, viz.:—a child suffering from an infectious disease should not be allowed into any public place or public conveyance, or to come into contact with other children. It is necessary to stress this rule in the case of Whooping Cough which is often regarded too lightly not only from a point of view of infectiousness, but also of treatment. Eleven cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, compared with 2 in 1942, 11 in 1941, and, with 14 in 1938.

The numbers of children in the two age groups immunized against Diphtheria under the Councils' schemes in the different districts during the year, were:—



Bushey		Chorleywood		Rickmansworth		Watford R.	
under 5.	5-15 yrs.	under 5.	5-15 yrs.	under 5.	5-15 yrs.	under 5.	5-15 yrs.
83	96	14	27	220	87	163	40

At the end of the year, the total numbers of children who had received treatment since the beginning of the Councils' schemes were:—

Bushey		Chorleywood		Rickmansworth		Watford R.	
under 5.	5-15 yrs.	under 5.	5-15 yrs.	under 5.	5-15 yrs.	under 5.	5-15 yrs.
357	1,350	136	479	1,226	1,314	858	2,057

Apart from the Councils' schemes, accurate records are not available for children who have been immunized privately, in residential schools, or in other districts; but, a fairly close estimate of these numbers has been included in order to give the total numbers of children immunized since 1940, expressed as percentages of the children living in the two age groups:—

Bushey		Chorleywood		Rickmansworth		Watford R.	
under 5.	5-15 yrs.	under 5.	5-15 yrs.	under 5.	5-15 yrs.	under 5.	5-15 yrs.
26	84.3	25	77.2	45.5	72	28	77

The percentages of children over the age of five years who have been immunized may be regarded as satisfactory, but such is not the case in the under fives in spite of the extensive arrangements throughout the area whereby any child can be immunized at no cost to the parents. It is of the greatest importance that children should be immunized when they are about one year old, so that they will be protected during their early years when the disease is more likely to be fatal. When young children are ill they are not good at describing their symptoms, and a serious condition of the throat may develop which may not be noticed by the parents. Diphtheria Immunization is strongly recommended by the Ministry of Health and by the Councils of the Districts; and, it is hoped that before long every child will be protected against this unnecessary disease. Children may be given the immunizing injections, which are of a simple nature, by their own Doctor; at any Child Welfare Centre, if under the age of five years; or at any special Immunization Clinic in the area.

The prevention and treatment of the Venereal Diseases are of particular importance in war time, and, it is desirable that publicity should be given to the available facilities. Treatment, in itself a preventive measure, must be efficient and confidential. Delay in obtaining treatment makes the eradication of the diseases more difficult and prolonged. Treatment by Specialists can be obtained, free of charge, at any V.D. Clinic in London, or, in the Home Counties. The two nearest clinics in Hertfordshire are:—

**Watford.**—Shrodells Hospital, Vicarage Road.

Men. Tuesdays, 5—7 p.m.; Fridays, 2—4 p.m.

Women. Mondays, 5—7 p.m.; Fridays, 10 a.m.—12 noon.

**St. Albans.**—Oster House Hospital, Union Lane.

Men. Wednesdays, 2—4 p.m.; Fridays, 5—7 p.m.

Women. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.—12 noon, and 5—7 p.m.;  
Fridays, 2—4 p.m.

A considerable amount of additional work in connection with the Civil Defence Services, the examination of canned and other foods, and etc., has fallen on the Public Health Departments, and, it has all been carried out by the Inspectors and their Assistants with efficiency.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM HARVEY.

Seventieth Annual Report,  
South-West Herts Combined (Public Health) Districts.  
12th October, 1944.

# BUSHEY

## URBAN DISTRICT.

---

### Vital Statistics.

Death Rate. (per 1,000 of population)	...	...	...	...	11.5
Birth Rate. (live births per 1,000 of population)	...	...	...	...	14.8
Infantile Mortality. (deaths under 1 yr. per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	46.6

### TUBERCULOSIS.

The following notifications and deaths were recorded during the year:—

				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
				Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
New cases	...	...	...	6	6	1	1
Deaths	...	...	...	5	4	—	2

### SANITARY CONDITIONS.

#### Housing Statistics.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts ... 46

Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 0

Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding section) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 38

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of action by the Local Authority ... 36

Number of structurally separate dwellings erected during the year:

(1) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	0
(2) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	0

#### Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

#### Water Supply.

The water supply of the District is adequate and chlorinated.

#### Milk Supply.

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26

#### Disinfection (1), Disinfestation (2).

Number of cases	(1) 35,	(2) 7	...	...	...	...	Total	42
-----------------	---------	-------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------	----

#### Public Cleansing.

Direct labour and part contract scheme. Vehicles employed—two low-loading motor vehicles with metal covers and back sliding shutters. Disposal by controlled tipping.

# NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

INCIDENCE according to **SEX** and **AGE**

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Whooping Cough		Measles (Exc. Rubella)		Ac. poliomyelitis		Ac. polio-encephalitis	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ... ..						1	1	2				
1— ... ..	1	2			1	1	9	7				
3— ... ..	2	4			3		7	7				
5— ... ..	7	9			2	2	39	24				
10— ... ..	2	2	1			1	14	2				
15— ... ..	1	1					1	4				
25 and over	2	3					4	2				
TOTAL...	15	21	1	—	6	5	75	48	—	—	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Enteric or Typhoid Fever		Paratyphoid Fevers		Dysentery		Ac. Pneumonia		Cerebro-spinal Fever		Ac. encephalitis lethargica	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ... ..												
5— ... ..			1				1		1			
15— ... ..							1	1				
45— ... ..							2	3				
65 and over												
TOTAL...	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	4	1	—	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Puerperal Pyrexia		Ophthalmia Neonatorum		Erysipelas		Smallpox		Typhus Fever		Malaria	
		F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ... ..			1	1								
5— ... ..												
15— ... ..		18										
45— ... ..					2	1						
65 and over						1						
TOTAL...	—	18	1	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—

Remainder of Notifiable Diseases—Notifications : Cholera, 0 ;  
Plague, 0 ; Relapsing Fever, 0 ; Tuberculosis, q.v.



# CHORLEYWOOD

## URBAN DISTRICT.

### Vital Statistics.

Death Rate. (per 1,000 of population)	...	...	...	...	13.0
Birth Rate. (live births per 1,000 of population)	...	...	...	...	15.1
Infantile Mortality. (deaths under 1 yr. per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	76.9

### TUBERCULOSIS.

The following notifications and deaths were recorded during the year:—

				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
				Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
New cases	...	...	...	—	1	—	—
Deaths	...	...	...	1	—	1	—

### SANITARY CONDITIONS.

#### Housing Statistics.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts ... 27

Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 0

Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding section) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 10

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of action by the Local Authority ... 9

Number of structurally separate dwellings erected during the year:

(1) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	0
(2) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	0

#### Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

#### Water Supply.

The water supply of the District is adequate and chlorinated.

#### Milk Supply.

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

#### Disinfection (1), Disinfestation (2).

Number of cases	(1) 7,	(2) 1	...	...	...	...	Total	8
-----------------	--------	-------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------	---

#### Public Cleansing.

Contract Scheme. Vehicles Employed—One motor vehicle with hinged metal covers. Disposal by Controlled Tipping.

# NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

INCIDENCE according to **SEX** and **AGE**

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Whooping Cough		Measles (Exc. Rubella)		Ac. poliomyelitis		Ac. polio-encephalitis	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ... ..												
1— ... ..		1			1	2		2			*	
3— ... ..		1				1	3	3				
5— ... ..	1	2			1	3	8	14				
10— ... ..	1	1				1		7				
15— ... ..								1				
25 and over								1				
TOTAL...	2	5	—	—	2	7	11	28	—	—	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Enteric or Typhoid Fever		Paratyphoid Fevers		Dysentery		Ac. Pneumonia		Cerebro-spinal Fever		Ac. encephalitis lethargica	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ... ..												
5— ... ..												
15— ... ..												
45— ... ..												
65 and over												
TOTAL...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Puerperal Pyrexia		Ophthalmia Neonatorum		Erysipelas		Smallpox		Typhus Fever		Malaria	
		F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ... ..												
5— ... ..												
15— ... ..												
45— ... ..												
65 and over												
TOTAL...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Remainder of Notifiable Diseases—Notifications : Cholera, 0 ;  
Plague, 0 ; Relapsing Fever, 0 ; Tuberculosis, q.v.

# RICKMANSWORTH

## URBAN DISTRICT.

### Vital Statistics.

Death Rate. (per 1,000 of population)	...	...	...	...	10.1
Birth Rate. (live births per 1,000 of population)	...	...	...	...	17.8
Infantile Mortality. (deaths under 1 yr. per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	37.1

### TUBERCULOSIS.

The following notifications and deaths were recorded during the year:—

				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
				Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
New cases	...	...	...	9	4	2	3
Deaths	...	...	...	5	6	—	2

### SANITARY CONDITIONS.

#### Housing Statistics.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts ... 103

Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 0

Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding section) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 55

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of action by the Local Authority ... 28

Number of structurally separate dwellings erected during the year:

(1) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	0
(2) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	0

#### Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

#### Water Supply.

The water supply of the District is adequate and chlorinated.

#### Milk Supply.

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

#### Disinfection (1), Disinfestation (2).

Number of cases	(1) 69,	(2) 14	...	...	...	...	Total	83
-----------------	---------	--------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------	----

#### Public Cleansing.

Direct labour scheme. Vehicles employed—Two 10 and one 6 c. yds. vehicles with sliding metal covers, and one 15 c. yds. vehicle, rear loading. Disposal by Controlled Tipping. Efficient salvage scheme in operation since April, 1938.

#### Canal Boats, Inspection of

Number of boats inspected	...	23.	Contraventions	...	0
---------------------------	-----	-----	----------------	-----	---



NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

INCIDENCE according to SEX and AGE

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Whooping Cough		Measles (Exc. Rubella)		Ac. poliomyelitis		Ac. polio-encephalitis	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ... ..							1	3				
1— ... ..	4						6	10				
3— ... ..	11	5				2	17	18				
5— ... ..	16	15	2	1	3	2	37	30				
10— ... ..	6	8	3	1	1		8	10				
15— ... ..												
25 and over				1				3				
TOTAL...	37	28	5	3	4	4	69	74	—	—	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Enteric or Typhoid Fever		Paratyphoid Fevers		Dysentery		Ac. Pneumonia		Cerebro-spinal Fever		Ac. encephalitis lethargica	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ... ..					1			1	1			
5— ... ..					1				1			
15— ... ..			1									
45— ... ..							2			1		
65 and over												
TOTAL...	—	—	1	—	2	—	2	1	2	1	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Puerperal Pyrexia		Ophthalmia Neonatorum		Erysipelas		Smallpox		Typhus Fever		Malaria	
		F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ... ..												
5— ... ..												
15— ... ..		1										
45— ... ..												
65 and over						1						
TOTAL...	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

Remainder of Notifiable Diseases—Notifications : Cholera, 0 ;  
Plague, 0 ; Relapsing Fever, 0 ; Tuberculosis, q.v.

# WATFORD

## RURAL DISTRICT.

### Vital Statistics.

Death Rate. (per 1,000 of population)	...	...	...	9.1
Birth Rate. (live births per 1,000 of population)	...	...	...	14.0
Infantile Mortality. (deaths under 1 yr. per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	15.6

### TUBERCULOSIS.

The following notifications and deaths were recorded during the year:—

				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
				Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
New cases	...	...	...	8	2	3	3
Deaths	...	...	...	5	1	—	1

### SANITARY CONDITIONS.

#### Housing Statistics.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts ... 110

Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 0

Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding section) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 15

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of action by the Local Authority ... 12

Number of structurally separate dwellings erected during the year:

(1) By the Local Authority ... 0

(2) By other bodies or persons ... 0

#### Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

#### Water Supply.

The water supply of the District is adequate and chlorinated.

#### Milk Supply.

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

#### Disinfection (1), Disinfestation (2).

Number of cases (1) 75, (2) 8 ... Total 83

#### Public Cleansing.

Direct labour scheme in operation in nine-tenths of the District. Vehicles employed—Modern refuse collection vehicles of the following capacities in cubic yards, 5, 7, 10 (2). Disposal by Controlled Tipping.

#### Canal Boats, Inspection of

Number of boats inspected ... 8                      Contraventions ... 2

# NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

INCIDENCE according to **SEX** and **AGE**

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Whooping Cough		Measles (Exc. Rubella)		Ac. poliomyelitis		Ac. polio-encephalitis	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ... ..							2	1				
1— ... ..	1	2			1	1	23	12				
3— ... ..	8	4			7	2	24	8				
5— ... ..	15	10	1		6	9	58	68				
10— ... ..	3	8	1			1	11	22				
15— ... ..	1	5					6	16				
25 and over		3			1		3	6				
TOTAL...	28	32	2	—	15	13	127	133	—	—	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Enteric or Typhoid Fever		Paratyphoid Fevers		Dysentery		Ac. Pneumonia		Cerebro-spinal Fever		Ac. encephalitis lethargica	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ... ..												
5— ... ..					1		4					
15— ... ..						1	5	1		1		
45— ... ..							3	4				
65 and over						1	2	3				
TOTAL...	—	—	—	—	1	2	14	8	—	1	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Puerperal Pyrexia		Ophthalmia Neonatorum		Erysipelas		Smallpox		Typhus Fever		Malaria	
		F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ... ..			1									
5— ... ..												
15— ... ..		1			1	3						
45— ... ..					1							
65 and over												
TOTAL...	—	1	1	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—

Remainder of Notifiable Diseases—Notifications : Cholera, 0 ;  
Plague, 0 ; Relapsing Fever, 0 ; Tuberculosis, q.v.



